

### **Watershed significance criteria based on Resource Parameters**

The following watershed significance criteria are designed to assess which watersheds are significant or are in a critical state of degradation.

- Aquifer Systems - Refers to the CWRM Water Resource Protection Plan, as those areas that overlay or contribute to recharge of an important aquifer, stream or near-shore ecosystem or is an important source of water supply
- Streams - Refers to the watershed having perennial or intermittent streams and the presence of diversions, channels and aquatic, riparian, cultural and recreational values as categorized by the CWRM Multi-Attribute Prioritization of Streams Project and the Hawaii Stream Assessment.
- Native Plants - Refers to areas having native Hawaiian biota
- Invasive Plants - Refers to areas having invasive plant species, like Miconia
- Feral Animals - Refers to areas population of feral animals creating a detrimental impact to the areas forests and plants.
- Erosion - Refers to areas denuded of vegetation and contribute to polluted runoff and reduction in groundwater recharge
- Historic and cultural significance - Refers to areas having significance to historic and cultural values
- Land use designation - Refers to the State land use district designation with conservation districts having the highest protection values. Rural, Agricultural and Urban districts will have lower watershed protection value.
- Fire Rating – Refers to the areas susceptibility to fires, especially during dry summer months.

### **Watershed Significance Criteria Based on Management Parameters**

The Watershed protection programs & projects criteria are designed to focus on the most effective management projects that best benefits the resource values identified by the watershed significance criteria.

- Aquifer & Stream Enhancement - Refers to projects that contribute to the protection, management and restoration of critical water resources (aquifers, streams, near-shore environments, etc.)
- Erosion control - Refers to projects that involve measures to mitigate or eliminate erosive impacts with the prevention, control or mitigation of possible pollutant impacts
- Fire control and prevention - Refers to projects that involve measures to prevent, control or mitigate fire damage
- Forest Chemical Management Programs - Refers to projects that involve measures to manage, monitor and control chemical application
- Animal control - Refers to projects that involve measures to control or eliminate invasive plant or animal species
- Invasive weed control - Refers to projects that involve measures to control or eliminate invasive plant and weed species
- Pest and disease detection and control - Refers to projects that involve management or control of pathogenic organisms or diseases detrimental to the ecosystem
- Recreation Management - Refers to projects that involve the management of recreational or other uses in such a way that the subject area is protected
- Partnerships and Community Involvement programs - Refers to Partnerships, agency and community support, involvement, and public outreach programs may enhance project eligibility.
- Public Education and Volunteerism - Refers to public outreach efforts to educate and promote community volunteerism to increase community interests and reduce project costs. High probability of success and results transferable to similar areas within the State
- Aesthetic Value - Refers to the watersheds that capture the “uniqueness” of Hawaii
- Cost of Watershed Protection Projects - Refers to the estimated project costs to protect, manage or restore an important attribute of the watershed, such as reforestation, fencing or animal eradication projects.
- Permitting for Watershed Protection Projects - Refers to the degree of permitting conditions that apply to each proposed watershed protection project.